



**For immediate release**  
November 9, 2023, at 10 a.m.

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**BOSTON POPS TO HONOR THE MILITARY COMMUNITY WITH  
A SPECIAL HOLIDAY POPS PREVIEW ON NOVEMBER 30**

**With the support of Highland Street Foundation and other sponsors, about 2,000 members of the military community and their families will attend the free event at Symphony Hall**

**Former U.S.S. Constitution Commander John Benda will narrate “’Twas the Night Before Christmas,” one of the program’s signature pieces**

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The Boston Pops is proud to announce a special free Holiday Pops presentation for members of the military community and their families on November 30 at 7:30 p.m. Conducted by **Keith Lockhart**, the special event will honor those who defend our freedom along with the families that support them. This is the first time such a preview has been offered.

U.S. Navy Commander [John Benda](#) will narrate one of the program’s signature pieces, “’Twas the Night Before Christmas.” A Boston native who grew up in Dedham, Benda served as the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Constitution from 2020 to

2022 and now serves at the Navy Leadership and Ethics Center in Newport, Rhode Island.

With the exceptional guidance from lead event sponsor, Highland Street Foundation, the Pops identified almost twenty organizations that work in the military community to be offered complimentary tickets to the November 30 event. These included the Boston Office of Veterans Services, the Massachusetts National Guard, Boston Vet Centers, Homes for Our Troops, Home Base, and MA Military Heroes Fund. In addition to these guests, free tickets were distributed through employee veteran groups affiliated with longstanding Boston Pops, BSO, and Tanglewood sponsors Fidelity Investments, Fairmont Copley Plaza, Arbella Insurance Foundation, Genesis Motor America, Bank of America, Bloomberg, and Berkshire Health Systems.

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**QUOTE FROM CHAD SMITH, EUNICE AND JULIAN COHEN CEO AND PRESIDENT, BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:**

“We are honored to partner with the Highland Street Foundation and our other corporate sponsors to share this beloved holiday tradition with our military heroes and their loved ones. During the season of giving, we are especially grateful to those who serve our country at home and abroad.”

**QUOTE FROM KEITH LOCKHART, JULIAN AND EUNICE COHEN CONDUCTOR, BOSTON POPS:**

“I’ve wanted to do a concert dedicated to the heroes who serve in our armed forces for a long time. We look forward to sharing the joy and festivity of the holidays with this community, giving just a little back to this remarkable group of people, who give all of us so much!”

**QUOTE FROM BLAKE JORDAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HIGHLAND STREET FOUNDATION:**

“We are thrilled to partner with the Boston Pops to honor our military community at one of our city’s most iconic holiday performances. It is a small way to show our tremendous appreciation for their service and sacrifice, and hope that the evening provides an opportunity for all to gather and experience the joy of the season.”

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## ABOUT HOLIDAY POPS

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary year, Holiday Pops was initiated by Boston Pops Conductor Arthur Fiedler with a three-concert series at Symphony Hall in 1973. Since that time, Holiday Pops has grown to become a favorite holiday tradition for many families. Programs will feature the Boston Pops and Tanglewood Festival Chorus in holiday favorites, alongside new and exciting arrangements of seasonal classics—as well as a highly anticipated visit by Santa Claus. Patrons on the orchestra level can order food and drink from cafe-style tables. This year, the Holiday Pops schedule offers 39 concerts from December 1-24 at Symphony Hall including seven kids' matinees and a sensory-friendly concert. Holiday Pops also will be presented in Lowell, Worcester, Providence, R.I., Manchester, N.H., and Storrs, Conn.

For more on the history of Holiday Pops, [click here](#).

To view an online press kit for the 2023 Holiday Pops season, including a complete concert listing, [click here](#).

## HOW TO BUY TICKETS FOR OTHER PUBLIC HOLIDAY POPS PERFORMANCES

**All tickets for this private event on November 30 have been distributed to members of the military community through the community partners, as described above.**

Tickets for the public Holiday Pops performances at Symphony Hall may be purchased at [bostonpops.org](http://bostonpops.org) or 888-266-1200.

Tickets for the Holiday Pops performances in the five other New England cities mentioned above may be purchased through the presenting venues.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible seats and other accommodations are available for all patrons. Accommodations can be made by calling 617-638-9431 or emailing [access@bso.org](mailto:access@bso.org). For more information, visit [our website](#).

## SPONSORSHIP

We are grateful to the **Highland Street Foundation** for their lead sponsorship in support of this event, and for lending their expertise to ensure the hall is filled with this deserving community.

The 2023 Holiday Pops Season is sponsored by **Fidelity Investments**. For over 50 years, Fidelity Investments and the Boston Pops have proudly worked together to bring wonderful performances to local audiences. **Fairmont Copley Plaza** is the Official Hotel of the Boston Pops.

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Symphony Hall | 301 Massachusetts Avenue | Boston, MA 02115 | [Box Office Hours](#)

Ticketing & Customer Service | 617.266.1200 (M-F: 10-4pm & Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm) Service & Tickets | Subscriptions 888.266.7575

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